

1/2 Leonard's COLUMN

Leonard Has Impromptu Fight With Soldier Bartfield, and It Was the Real Thing.

BENNY LEONARD, the lightweight champion, took part in a genuine fight last week, and the sport world heard little or nothing about it, possibly because it happened in Brooklyn. It was at the Brooklyn Elks Club last Thursday night.

Benny, who has a badly dislocated thumb, a memento of his fight with Ted Kid Lewis in Newark, went across the bridge to contribute his services as a referee. But for the bad thumb he would have boxed an exhibition, but then in any capacity. "The bout chosen for Benny to referee was the one between Soldier Bartfield and Jack London. As it progressed Bartfield criticized Leonard's work as referee. He told him he was the worst ever. Benny naturally resented Bartfield's remarks, and finally told him he didn't know how to fight at all.

"I can lick you," said Bartfield, "even if I don't know how to fight."

"You can, eh?" replied Benny, unimpressed by his bad hand. "Get a pair of gloves for me and we shall see."

With that Benny ordered London out of the ring and declared himself ready to finish out the other two rounds with Bartfield.

The gloves were brought into the ring for Leonard, and Benny, stripping off his army uniform to his undershirt, went to it with the rough house Bartfield. It was a real hammer and sledge affair. Bartfield pulled everything he had, his backhand wallop and all that goes with it, and Benny stopped around him with all his well-known speed. Those who saw the impromptu scrap declare it was the best exhibition of fistfists ever seen in Brooklyn.

WHEN Billy Gibson, manager of Leonard, heard about it he hit the ceiling. He had been trying to map out a countrywide tour for Benny, to begin when the injured hand was O. K. again, and naturally he was incensed at the idea of Leonard's taking any such chances against a big, strong fellow like Bartfield. As things turned out, however, the hand wasn't hurt any and the Elks saw a red hot bout which wasn't on the programme. But hereafter, Gibson says, he will accompany Benny any time he goes to a boxing bout if even he is only to referee a bout.

SUPREME Court Judges don't as a rule, go out of their dignified way to publicly commend a boxer, but Justice Edward R. Finch did so the other day. It was on the occasion of Benny Leonard's winning a suit from an automobile repairer for excess charges. When the case was over the Justice announced he would like to shake hands with the champion, whereupon he said:

"I am indeed pleased not only to meet but to shake hands with a man of your type. You are a clean cut young man. You act and talk like a gentleman, and you are a credit to the work in which you are engaged."

It is quite evident that you have taken good care of yourself, and I hope the boys at Camp Upton with whom you have been in contact will learn more of you and follow the bright example you have set. Some of them, now that the war is over, may have a tendency to lose control of themselves. If they will follow you, from what I have seen and heard of you during this trial, they will not go wrong."

I hope to meet you again and meet you often. I am confident that whatever enterprise you may undertake, even if we meet twenty years hence, will be just as successful as those you have been engaged in up to the present time. You are a credit to yourself and to those with whom you are associated. I am glad to have met you, glad to have shaken the hand of a clean cut young man like you."

A GOOD fighter goes wrong. That is what we hear about Harry Patsy Cline. A year or so ago this lad looked like a prospective champion. He was fast, clever, scientific and still in his teens. To-day, according to what was told us yesterday, he's big and bloated, has developed a fondness for the brew and has an idea he can beat up policemen. He tried to do this recently and of course came out second best, and very much in need of a hospital doctor's attention. As a youngster Cline went along fast. He hardly ever met defeat. He looked the logical candidate for Benny Leonard's honors; in fact, he fought Leonard and held his own with him. It is possible he is not too far gone to be brought back. Whoever has his interests at heart should see to it that he is jacked up.

BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK

By Thornton Fisher

LIPTON CHALLENGE MEANS BIG SEASON IN N. Y. YACHTING

Yachtsmen Think the Resolute and No Other Should Meet Shamrock IV.

The first real breeze that has filled the sails of the sport world of this country since the beginning of the war came in the shape of a cablegram from Sir Thomas Lipton, due at the New York Yacht Club to-day, which makes an international yacht race a certainty for next summer.

While the New York Yacht Club has not yet received Sir Thomas's offer it was said at the club to-day that it was known the message had been sent and that so far as the club was concerned it was merely a formality in preparing the way for the big race that should have taken place in the fall of 1914.

Shamrock IV. had reached this port from England under her own canvas, and everything was set for the big sporting event of the year when the Surajave bomb blew the world into war and the race was necessarily called off.

Now the unexpected cablegram from Sir Thomas Lipton, probably the most admired of all international sportsmen, has set yachting circles throughout America a-gog and has put the real punch behind the revival of sports.

News of Lipton's challenge sent a thrill through sporting circles in general and yachting circles in particular to-day when it finally became known that the cable from Britain's leading yachtsman was authentic.

"It means," said yachting men here, "that the greatest of all sports is to have the greatest of all years next year. Next summer will be the most wonderful in the history of yachting."

A marine engineer in the employ of the Herrschoffs, builders of the Resolute, which, but for the war, would have been defender of the America Cup, said to-day that the big race would probably be sailed off Sandy Hook in July. The first race, he said, would probably take place of July 4, according to tradition, the highly trained crews could not be gotten into shape before the middle of August.

Old sea dogs do not see to-day how the race could be held before July 4. Some were of the opinion that the cup contenders and their highly trained crews could not be gotten into shape before the middle of August.

Some yachting men declare that although the war has demonstrated her superiority over her formidable contender, the Vantile, in the elimination trials held in the summer of 1914, she is a past master in the water. Two yachts being built to fight for the privilege of representing America in the great international event.

There is a strong feeling in yachting circles, however, against any boat carrying the Resolute's name. Uncle Sam's colors in the design of the boat, who sponsor this idea, claim that it would be unfair to Shamrock IV, her owner and to England to substitute a recently built defender. They claim that it is in poor taste to race yachts that were built in 1914, and that for the United States to enter a boat of a later model would not only show a lack of sportsmanship, but would create no end of criticism abroad.

A well known yachtsman informed The Evening World that the Resolute was in a position to say if there was any chance, under the peculiar circumstances of this particular race, of allowing a recent entry like the Resolute to compete with the Shamrock IV. The yachtsman said that he had been reliably informed in France that the Resolute, if built, would be a past master in the water. He said that the Resolute, if built, would be a past master in the water. He said that the Resolute, if built, would be a past master in the water.

Investigation on the part of The Evening World developed the fact that there was much opposition to this idea. One official of a well known yacht club in Connecticut, who asked that his name be withheld, declared the fact that early in 1914 there had been quite an international controversy over the big yacht race.

"The Resolute, if built, would be a past master in the water," he said, "and we had everything prepared for the holding of the race when the war came. The war, however, has put the Resolute and Shamrock IV. Much as I would like to see a defender representing the Resolute, I feel that it is in the best interests of the Resolute and Shamrock IV. race to go with the question. It is merely a postponed event, and it is only fair to every one concerned that the two old yachts should be allowed to fight it out."

James Henigan, formerly of the Dorchester Club, Boston, sent a cablegram to the New York Yacht Club, offering to race the Resolute against the Shamrock IV. A. A. The cable was received at the New York Yacht Club on December 10. Henigan, represented the Brooklyn A. A. in the contest.

William Lietz was the winner of the handicap race run on Paul A. Athlete's Club over the downtown course yesterday. He had an allowance of 4 minutes, and sailed a 12-foot boat. He had thirteen starters, over the time, and a half mile course in 21 m. 15 sec.

Two of the most prominent athletes of the Paul A. Athlete's Club have been engaged and scheduled to fight in France, according to a letter received here yesterday. The two are George Corbett, 10th Infantry, and Harry McGinn, 36th Infantry. The information came in a letter from Captain Corbett, a brother of George, who is in France. Both are now convalescing at a base hospital in France.



Latest News of the Links

LONDON, Dec. 15.—George Dunlop, the famous English golfing professional, who has been in the Royal Flying Corps since 1915, has met with a serious accident as the result of an airplane falling upon him while on duty. He sustained a badly bruised thigh and an injured knee and will be laid up for some time. Dunlop is anxious to continue practicing for the open golf championship which will be resumed next year.

Word has been received to the effect that Lieut. Stewart D. Connolly, winner of the first junior tournament of the Metropolitan Golf Association at Plainfield in 1912, has not been killed in battle, as originally thought. Connolly joined the Royal Air Force and has been missing for some time, but he has been found, wounded and a prisoner in Germany.

Members of the Calumet Country Club feel proud of the progress that has been made on the course in the past year, when the club has practically self-sustaining. Inasmuch as the initial effort was highly successful, its application may become permanent.

Fistic News John Pollock and Gossip

New Orleans ring affairs will claim the attention of the followers of the sport game to-night. Jack Dempsey, the contender for the world's title, and Carl Morris, the heavily favored contender, will furnish the fireworks for the occasion. They took up in a twenty-round bout at the big Louisiana Auditorium, a spacious open-air arena in that city which accommodates over 15,000 persons.

Tulsa, Okla., is another city where an important fight is slated to be fought to-night. The fight will be the principle in the event, Jack Morris, winner of the world's title, will furnish the fireworks for the occasion. They took up in a twenty-round bout at the big Louisiana Auditorium, a spacious open-air arena in that city which accommodates over 15,000 persons.

It is now definitely settled that Jack Dempsey will not box Tom Corbett, the English heavyweight, at either the Olympic A. A. or the National A. C. of Philadelphia on Christmas or New Year's Day. Jack Morris, winner of the world's title, has turned down both offers of a \$4,000 guarantee for Dempsey which the managers of the clubs offered him for his better to look up with Corbett in a six-round bout at a special boxing show to be held by the clubs on either of the holidays. Corbett and Dempsey will attract a \$10,000 gate in "Paddy's" if they should battle.

George Engel has made good as the main attraction of the Olympic A. A. of Philadelphia. The club realized about a five-figure gate for the fight, which was held on Christmas night. Engel was put on five six-round bouts between the following good fighters: Willie Jackson vs. George "Young" King of Philadelphia; George "Young" King vs. Eddie Wagon of Philadelphia; Freddie Kelly vs. Eddie Wagon of Philadelphia; Freddie Kelly vs. Eddie Wagon of Philadelphia; Freddie Kelly vs. Eddie Wagon of Philadelphia.

A fight promoter of Portland, Me., to-day wired Frank Burns, the Jersey City heavyweight, offering \$100 for him to box Bettling Beider, the local heavyweight, in a six-round bout at the American Athletic Club on New Year's Day. Burns may be matched to meet the winner of the second round in Baltimore.

Three top good heavyweight, Jack Sharkey of New York and Dick Leonard of Buffalo, are going to meet in a six-round bout at the American Athletic Club on New Year's Day. They were matched to meet by promoter Fred of that city to claim at the request of the boxing club. The fight will be held at 120 seconds, each in the middle. Possible Burns was offered the match with Leonard, but the latter didn't suit him, and Sharkey was engaged to fight for the place. Burns may be matched to meet the winner of the second round in Baltimore.

Bettling Beider, the Brooklyn featherweight, has been matched to box Charlie Kid Parker of Boston at the American A. A. of Boston, Mass., for a six-round bout on New Year's Day. The winner is reported to have won the last round, the welterweight championship.



Game's Success Depends Upon Rivalry Between Cities, Says Fullerton

Baseball Can Be Restored to Popularity by Restoring Local Interest in Clubs, as Fans Go to See Real Contests, Not to Be Amused, Says Evening World Expert.

By Hugh S. Fullerton.

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ALL this upsurge and fuss in baseball which has attended the effort of the owners of clubs to resurrect their business, it seems to me, resolves itself into one thing—that is, whether baseball is a sport or an amusement.

The factions that are disturbing the game, causing uprisings and battling verbally to the further disrepute of the business are mainly selfish, but in a general way they divide into two camps—those who desire the business of the major leagues conducted upon purely sporting lines and those who want it commercialized and put on an amusement enterprise basis.

The truth is that baseball, save in New York, Chicago and Boston, never will pay from a purely amusement standpoint. The game is not an amusement but a sport. Its appeal to the public lies not in its entertaining or amusing features but in the contest.

It seems to me that unless the club owners realize this they will continue to go backward. The way to restore the game is to restore the rivalry between cities.

In New York and Chicago there are enough casuals to support clubs, but the smaller of the major league cities and all the minor leagues depend upon rivalry between teams to attract crowds.

If it were possible to establish zones around each of the major league cities and compel those clubs to draw players from their own town or district, baseball would have the most tremendous boom in its history. Cities represented on the ball field by native sons always have and always will have loyal and intensely partisan support from the fans.

If there is no contest and nothing at stake no club can draw enough spectators to pay salaries. Tack the word "exhibition" on the announcement and the crowd dwindles to a quarter of the number that would gather to see a "championship" contest. No further proof is needed that the people come to see a battle between two teams and not to witness an exhibition of skill and agility.

I REMEMBER one time a number of years ago John T. Brush, then owner of the New York Giants, issued an order forbidding reporters who were traveling with the Chicago team to enter the Polo Grounds. The order was a distinct shock to me, because Mr. Brush and I had been rather friendly for many years. The gatekeeper told me he had the order, and I inquired the reason for the order.

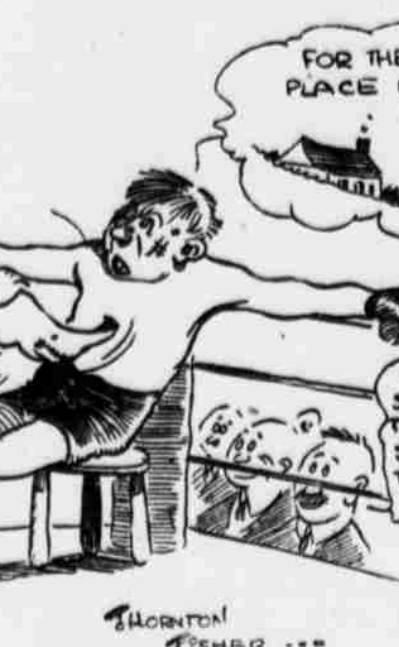
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"Can't you see the reason?" he laughed. "Well," he explained, "I shut you boys out of the park. I should you write indignant protests. The Chicago fans are the best. The next time the Giants play in Chicago the crowds will overflow the stands to get a chance to yell at them. Then Murphy will shut out the New York reporters and when the Cubs play here it will be the same. The prosperity of the National League depends upon the rivalry between New York and Chicago."

It was true. Brush was a great baseball man, and a great showman. The great trouble with the majority of baseball men is that they are not good showmen, and with good showmen that they are not good baseball men. Few are both.

OWNERS and experts have searched high and low for the reason for the decline in interest in major league baseball of recent years. The decline really commenced in 1912, and has continued steadily, reaching its climax last season. Almost every reason excepting the real one has been assigned. Many of the so-called "reasons" contributed somewhat to decrease in patronage, and the war took away much in the last two seasons. The real reason, however, was that the players have not furnished contests. Last season I spent three months talking with and listening to the players during the winter and after games. The universal complaint was that the games seemed to have lost their "pep" and were exhibitions rather than contests.

This became more and more noticeable last year. The players were not hustling, fighting and trying hard to win. They were merely going through the motions of a game and getting it over with. There were series in which two teams of the fighting type met—and these series drew a good crowd. The players were not hustling, fighting and trying hard to win. They were merely going through the motions of a game and getting it over with.



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Tabloid Review of Local Sports

Poor light and a wind that affected the flight of the targets were responsible for low scores being made by the gunners of the New York Athletic Club in their week-end shoot at the Travers Island traps of the organization. R. M. Owen was the only aimed to make a straight string of 25 targets. He had a perfect run in the shoot for the Tournament Prize, and then later in the afternoon shot a special with another straight string of 25 targets.

The Morningside A. C. defeated the Holy Name Club five in a basketball game played at the Manhattan Casino yesterday by the score of 27 to 13. The winners had little trouble in dispatching their rivals and at the end of the first half led by 11 to 5. Louis Goldie was the individual star of the game, scoring 11 points for the Harlem aggregation.

The New York Football Club defeated the Babcock & Wilcox soccer eleven at Lenox Oval by a score of 3 to 0 yesterday and bettered its position by two points in the annual championship series of the National Football League.

The decision of Yale's athletic authorities not to form any definite policy for sports until after the meeting of the National Collegiate A. A. on Dec. 27, makes it probable that the Intercollegiate Swimming Association, of which Yale is a leading member and holder of the team championship title, will also await the outcome of the approaching gathering before laying plans for 1919. The delay seems advisable under the circumstances and need in no way affect the prospects for the season. The Intercollegiate Swimming Association usually takes place in March, and there will be plenty of time to make arrangements for them after the Christmas vacations.

The swimmers of Great Britain have already started to reorganize their shattered forces, and the new season of interest in water sports, but they face a hard "pull" climb.

William Unmack of San Francisco, promoter of the athletic sports and former All A. C. official, now in this city, says he cannot understand why only two of the many swimming records credited last summer to Mrs. Frances Cowell, of California, have been submitted for acceptance by the national body, since most of the others were investigated and listed as coast standards by the Pacific authorities.

Tom Whitaker of Philadelphia, formerly one of America's leading professional swimming coaches now engaged in the automobile business in San Francisco, has joined the Olympic Club and been induced to serve as voluntary instructor to the watermen of the organization. In order to encourage the team candidates he will hold weekly sets of events for point trophies to be awarded each trimester, and he hopes to thus bring out the material for a winning squad in 1919.

Now that the war is over the New York Yacht Club could be an applicant for championship sanctions, and a number of the metropolitan and national aquatic clubs are expected to be decided in the 19th Street pool.

Oscar Larson won his first road run since joining the Morningside Athletic Club in the four and a half mile weekly race at the Lenox Oval yesterday. Larson ran in exceptionally fast time, covering the distance in 20 m. 15 sec. His opponent, a Christopher Clark athlete, was a distant second, while Harry Spies, a teammate of Larson, was third in 25:20.

The appearance of "Sailor" Jack Harris of the United States Navy and "